

AMAA news

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**AMAA Delegation Visits Serj Sarkisyan,
President of Armenia, on September 20, 2011**



Joe & Joyce Philibosian Stein with Catholicos Aram I and Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian

AMAA NEWS

is a publication of

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Editorial Message

20 Years of Mission and Service in Armenia

Levon Filian

On the occasion of celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Armenia's Independence, we also celebrate 20 years of our mission work in Armenia and Karabagh.

Hence, we dedicate this issue of the AMAA News to God and to all those who prayed, worked and supported our mission field in Armenia and Karabagh during the last 20 years. We also invite you to join us for a greater mission in the coming 20 years.

The AMAA, all of us together, did our best to follow the mandate given to us by Christ to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15). We were challenged by the commissions "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Col. 3:17), and we gave thanks in all circumstances, for this was the will of God in Christ Jesus for all of us. (1 Thess. 5:18).

Soon after the devastating earthquake of December 7, 1988 in Armenia, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. Movses B. Janbazian, Executive Director of the Association, became one of the first Armenian organizations to go to Armenia to conduct relief operations, by providing for the basic physical (health and nutrition) and spiritual needs of orphans and impoverished children.

In 1991, when Armenia declared its independence from the Soviet Union, the AMAA was one of the first Armenian organizations to officially register in Armenia and open its center in Yerevan to facilitate the organization's service ministry in Armenia. Levon Bardakjian served as AMAA's first Representative in Armenia from 1991-1994 followed by Rev. René Léonian, who served in Armenia from 1994-2011 having Harout Nercessian as his Deputy Representative.

We praise God for the leadership of the AMAA Board of Directors who worked diligently to support the Association's ministry in Armenia for the past 20 years under the leadership of our Board Presidents: H. Philip Hovnanian, Ph.D. (1988-1990); Edward Janjigian (1990-1993); Albert Momjian, Esq. (1993-1997); Andrew Torigian (1997-2004); and H. Steven Aharonian, M.D. (2004-2011).

Before 1990, there were only two Evangelical Churches (Baptist), which officially operated in Armenia. One was in Yerevan and the second in Gumri, formerly Leninagan. The AMAA's ministry in Armenia expanded under the leadership of its Executive Directors: Rev. Dr. Movses B. Janbazian (1987-2000); Rev. Jirair Sogomian (2001-2003); Rev. Peter Doghramji, Ph.D. (2004); Andrew Torigian (2004-2009); and Levon Filian (2010 to present).

Today, there are about 50 Evangelical churches and fellowships in Armenia and Karabagh, contributing to the spiritual and moral growth of the people of Armenia.



Education has always been another priority of the Association. In 1999, with the support of Edward and Pamela Avedisian, the AMAA founded the Avedisian School in Yerevan, Armenia. Melania Keghamyan has served as the school Principal since its inception. The AMAA also owns and supports a Kindergarten in Vanatzor, Armenia; a Kindergarten in Talin, Armenia; the Baghdikian Kindergarten in Stepanakert, Karabagh; the Bilezikian Kindergarten in Shoushi, Karabagh; the Sarian Kindergarten in Hadrut, Karabagh; the Janbazian Kindergarten in Martakert, Karabagh; and the Kindergarten of Askeran, Karabagh.

In 1998, the Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia was established to educate and prepare pastors and Christian Education leaders for the Evangelical Churches in Armenia. Rev. Dr. René Léonian served as President of the Academy until 2005. Rev. Dr. John Khanjian served as the Provost of the Academy from 2007-2010. Since September 2010, Dr. John Ahmaranian has assumed the leadership of the Academy as its Provost. Since its establishment, 128 students have graduated from the Academy.

The Child Sponsorship Program has been another priority of the Association. During the past 20 years, the AMAA has sponsored over 2,800 children **annually** in Armenia and Karabagh, providing them with both financial support and other relief supplies, free medical and dental service and most importantly, providing moral and spiritual support. The AMAA is grateful for its partnership with Dorcas Aid International (DAI) of Holland, Association Service d'Entraide et de Liaison (SEL) and Hope for Armenia of France in this program.

Camps and Vacation Bible Schools have been one of the main focuses of the AMAA. In the beginning, camps were held in rented facilities. However, today the AMAA owns two camps — Camp Bedrosian in Shoushi, Karabagh and Camp Sheen Shoghik in Hankavan, Armenia. Each summer, more than 5,000 children of various ages attend these camps.

The AMAA also provides free medical service to the needy through the Necess and Arpine Aynilian Medical Center in Yerevan, the Vanatzor Dental Clinic, financed and managed in cooperation with France's Hope for Armenia, and Spitak Medical and Dental Clinic, which operates in cooperation with the Union of French-Armenian Doctors and Hope for Armenia. Also, Medical Mission Trips, led by Dr. Albert Phillips, have been providing free health care to over 500 people in different centers of the AMAA and the Plastics Mission to Armenia, led by Dr. Robert Gertmenian Burns, has been performing surgery to successfully correct abnormalities such as cleft lip, cleft palate or burns.

In partnership with Hope for Armenia, the AMAA operates a soup kitchen during the winter months in



AMAA delegates and guests attending the 20th Anniversary celebrations of the AMAA in Armenia

Stepanavan, Armenia. Sister Hanna Christen, who had been a faithful servant in Armenia for over a decade, founded and supports a soup kitchen in the town of Toumanyan in Armenia. The kitchen serves over 80 people by providing them and their families with hot meals and bread to take home. Sister Hanna started her service in Armenia after her retirement from active mission work. For many years, she was one of the missionaries of the Boarding Department of the Armenian Evangelical Secondary School of Ainjar, Lebanon.

Another much needed service that the AMAA renders in Armenia is the "Adopt-A-Granny" Program. In cooperation with the DAI, the AMAA has implemented this program by supporting over 143 needy pensioners providing them with monthly social and material support.

The Armenian Children's Milk Fund Program provides baby infant formula for babies who are unable to digest milk or whose mothers cannot breastfeed them. Each year, over 3,000 babies benefit from this program.

During the past 20 years, many other organizations have partnered with us by providing humanitarian aid to our people in Armenia. We praise God for the United Armenian Fund (UAF), which has been instrumental in transporting shipments of aid to Armenia, the Heifer of Armenia and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for their partnership with the AMAA for providing humanitarian aid to the people of Armenia.

We conclude our report by inviting and challenging you with the following verse: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers in his harvest field." (Math. 9:37). □

Celebrating 20 Years of Service In Armenia

Andranik Mardoyan

On September 18, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and Hope for Armenia (HA) of France held an evening of celebration marking 20 years of ministry in Armenia at the Russian State Drama Theatre after Stanislavski in Yerevan. Board members, friends and supporters of both organizations from abroad and from Armenia participated. Representatives of government, local and international NGOs also joined in.

The celebration opened with welcoming words from the MC of the evening, Sarkis Najarian. This was followed by the presentation of a short documentary about the AMAA's ministries in Armenia.

Armenia President Serj Sarkisyan expressed his deep appreciation of the 20 years of service of the AMAA and HA in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. His congratulatory message was read by the President's Assistant, Avetis Berberian.

Congratulatory remarks were made by Rev. Dr. René Léonian, AMAA and HA Representative in Armenia, Rev. Samuel Kirakosyan, President of the Evangelical Church of Armenia, Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council, and Serge Kurkdjian, President of HA.

Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director, was the keynote speaker. He quoted Psalms 34:1-4 "I will extol the LORD

at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."

Mr. Filian welcomed all in attendance, thanked them for their support and congratulated all Armenians on the 20th Anniversary of their Independence. He thanked the AMAA and Hope for Armenia leaders for their 20 years of service in Armenia. He also recognized the Armenian soldiers and martyrs who fought for our independence and regained territories that rightfully belonged to us. He thanked all the religious and philanthropic organizations, specifically the Mother Church of Etchmiadzin.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Filian challenged all of the Armenians to work together in the spirit of cooperation and by putting their trust in God. "The Armenian Nation is like an eagle with two wings, the Homeland and the Diaspora. Both wings are necessary to remain afloat. And, above all, we must rely on the invisible power of the Holy Spirit that lifts us and keeps us close to God and to look at our future from His perspective." He quoted the Bible, "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

The speakers noted the great importance of the contribution of the two organizations in the life of the Armenian people. In the early 1990s when the people of Armenia were in need of help, the AMAA, joined by its HA brother in France, reached out and implemented many benevolent projects for children, the elderly and needy families. In the first years after the



Rev. Dr. René Léonian, AMAA Representative in Armenia



Serge Kurkdjian, Hope for Armenia President



Levon Filian, AMAA Executive Director

earthquake merely humanitarian aid was given to the people. Today, the two organizations participate in Armenia progress and development programs.

Representatives of the two organizations spoke about the value of and the much appreciated cooperation with each other for the benefit of the country and wished happiness, work, peace and joy to the population of Armenia.

The participants of the celebratory evening were treated to performances of Armenian and Western composers performed by the renowned "Renaissance" Chamber Orchestra, directed by Artistic Director Ruben Asatryan. □



Renaissance Chamber Orchestra performing at the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of the AMAA in Armenia with Artistic Director Ruben Asatryan

Pastors' Seminar in Armenia

Fifty seven Armenian Evangelical pastors from Armenia, Karabagh, Georgia, Iran and Russia were invited to spend a week in Camp Hankavan, Armenia for a Seminar. The Seminar started on Sunday, September 11, and concluded on Thursday, September 15, with Holy Communion Worship Service.

The purpose of the Seminar was to have fellowship with Christian brothers, pray together, renew and strengthen their pastoral skills, review theological principles, spend time to praise God for His abundant blessings and to rededicate themselves to serve God in their respective churches and communities.

The Seminar was led by Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, the Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and the Senior Pastor of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Fresno, CA. The Seminar speakers were Rev. Georges Dabbo, Senior Pastor of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, Canada, Rev. Gilbert Léonian, Senior Pastor of the Armenian

Evangelical Church of Beaumont, Marseille, France, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University of Beirut, Lebanon. Dr. John Ahmaranian, Provost of the Evangelical Academy of Armenia, and Rev. Dr. René Léonian the AMAA Representative in Armenia. Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council was unable to attend.

The topics for discussion included Evangelical Theology, Sacraments, Practical Theology, Pastoral Ministry, Church Worship Services, and the Calling and Vocation of a Pastor. The group spent time in worship services, seminars, small group discussions and meetings with individual pastors to share concerns and spend time in prayer.

Evening worship services included special musical and theatrical programs.



The Young Virtuosos, the Shoghig Musical Ensemble from Armavir Church and a theatrical group from the Taleen Church participated in these events.

All participants, Seminar leaders and pastors alike greatly benefited from the Seminar. They were blessed and became a blessing to others.

The AMAA thanks all the participants in this event, thanks God for the success of the Seminar and promises to continue sponsoring such worthy events in the coming years. □

President Bako Sahakyan Receives AMAA Delegation

On September 20, the President of Karabagh Bako Sahakyan, received the delegation from the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), headed by Executive Director Levon Filian.

Issues related to philanthropic programs carried out by the AMAA in Artsakh and plans for the future were discussed during the meeting. President Sahakyan expressed gratitude to the AMAA for projects being realized in Artsakh, noting that these works are necessary in the socio-economic sphere of our country. The Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs Narine Aghabalyan and Writer and Publicist Zori Balayan participated in the meeting. Mr. Filian thanked the President for his courageous leadership and promised to continue supporting our projects in Karabagh, to help our brothers and sisters. □



AMAA Delegation Visits RA Ministry of Diaspora

On September 17, the Republic of Armenia Minister of Diaspora Hranoush Hakobyan met with the delegation from the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), headed by AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian.

The delegation consisted of Rev. Dr. René Léonian, AMAA Armenia Representative; Harout Nercessian, AMAA Armenia Deputy Representative and Operation Manager, Joseph Stein, United Armenian Fund Vice President, and others.

During the meeting, Minister Hranoush Hakobyan, reflecting the problems and goals that are before the Republic of Armenia Ministry of Diaspora, highlighted the full and purposeful use of



the capabilities for the Armenian preservation work in Diaspora. Mr. Filian presented future plans of the Association, expressing willingness to constantly cooperate for the development and empowerment of the Motherland. □

Our Visit to Armenia 2011

Ken Kevorkian, AMAA Board Member

This was the second trip to Armenia for my wife, Thelma, and me. Our first visit was in September 2006. Fortunately for us, our two stays were during the celebration of the 15th and the 20th anniversaries of both the Independence of Armenia and the establishing of the AMAA.

We, along with Joyce and Joe Stein and Marilyn and Joe Zeronian, had the opportunity to visit and see firsthand the work and accomplishments of the AMAA in Armenia. Most encouraging was the development and success of its Christian ministries in the outlying areas. By our standards, the churches and their congregations are small, but their passion for the Lord is great and evident.

The church in Armavir, pastored by Rev. Garoush Antonyan, was a shining example. We were welcomed warmly and enjoyed a wonderful musical presentation. His wife, an accomplished singer, along with the Shoghik Choir, gave us a musical performance that was extraordinary. They began with the Via Della Rosa, followed by folk and spiritual songs, ending with "Yerevan." The three violinists did not even own their own instruments, they were borrowed. We were treated afterwards to an outdoor barbeque luncheon that was beautifully prepared, and set on a table with glassware and china (where they got it is beyond me), which was very tasty and cooked and served with loving hands. The experience at Armavir was very moving and was typical of the other church facilities that we visited.

We also went to Camp Hankavan, which was a first for Thelma and me. We were very pleased to see the new kitchen and the other improvements to the Camp. The size of the grounds and buildings offer a lot of potential. I hope that we develop it properly so that it reaches its maximum capability so that many can enjoy the opportunity and pleasure of going to camp there.

We also visited the United States Embassy. We had a very pleasant exchange with Brian Donahue, who is the Charge'd Affaires of the Embassy. The conversations were encouraging and he expressed the US commitment and desire to help and assist Armenia.

As in 2006, our visit to Armenia was meaningful and enjoyable. I encourage anyone who has not been to Armenia to

do so. One can never fully realize the connection and develop the compassion that is part of our heritage until you have been there.

On behalf of Thelma and me, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Harout Nercessian, his staff, and the AMAA for their help and assistance in making our trip a pleasant and enjoyable one. □

Visit to the US Embassy in Yerevan

Joe Zeronian, Ed.D., AMAA Board Member

As part of a week-long tour of Yerevan, Armenia and our Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) sites, our tour group spent time on October 21 at the United States Embassy in Yerevan. The US has the largest Embassy in staff size of any country in Armenia and it was clear from our interview with the Embassy staff that Armenia is a priority for the United States. We met with key staff members at the Embassy inasmuch as a new ambassador had not yet been confirmed. Subsequent to our visit, a week later on September 27, the United States Senate confirmed its appointment of John Heffern as Ambassador to Armenia.

The Embassy was built at a cost of \$80 million adjacent to Lake Yerevan on a 22 acre site with a wonderful vista across the lake. The facility contains a five-story Chancery Building of about 12,000 square feet, a two-story annex housing USAID. The Embassy is one of the largest properties owned by the US Department of State overseas. There are over 400 employees at the Embassy, mostly Armenians.

In our meeting with the staff, we heard a presentation of the efforts being made by the United States, the status of conditions today in the country compared to previously. It is clear that the United States is committed to assisting Armenia to develop both economically and politically into a free and independent state with an improving economy. The staff reviewed the various activities in Armenia that the United States is supporting and assisting.

We came away from our meeting impressed with the work and commitment of the United States in Armenia and proud to say that we are both Armenian and American. □

Armenia-Diaspora Forum Held September 19-20 in Yerevan

An Armenia-Diaspora Forum was held, under the auspices of the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, on September 19-20, in Yerevan, Armenia. The Forum took place on the eve of the 100 year anniversary of the genocide of Armenians and was organized for the representatives of the Diaspora organizations and community leaders.

The Forum was attended by the Representatives of the Armenian Evangelical World Council: Rev. Mgrditch Melkonian, President of the Armenian Evangelical World Council; Levon Filian, Executive Director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America; Rev. Dr. René Léonian, from the Republic of Armenia; Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University; and Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria.

The Forum focused on the cooperation of Armenia-Diaspora and its prospects for development and improved mechanisms and also explored new methods and means of strengthening this cooperation. The Forum was attended by more than 200 representatives of the Armenian Diaspora, from 52 different countries.



Within the framework of the Forum, the preliminary provided for general discussions on national priorities and perspectives of development cooperation, as well as thematic meetings devoted to Armenia-Diaspora cooperation, education and youth. Activities of the regional committees were also discussed.

Participants were given the opportunity to attend the reception, provided on behalf of the President of the Republic of Armenia, as well as all other festive events dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the Independence of Armenia. □

High Awards Presented

On September 17, the occasion of the 20th Anniversary for the Independence of the Republic of Armenia, Serj Sarkisyan, President of the Republic of Armenia, presented several high governmental awards during a ceremony at the Presidential palace of the Republic of Armenia.

According to (NH-184-A,) with the permission of the President of the Republic of Armenia, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian University, was honored with the Movses Khorenatsi Medal and Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Protestant Community in Syria, was honored with the Mkhitar Kosh Medal, for providing homeland services and for promoting and strengthening relations between the Republic of Armenia and the foreign country governments. These medals are bestowed for outstanding state, political and public activities and diplomatic services. □



Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian receiving Movses Khorenatsi Medal from President Serj Sarkisyan



Rev. Haroutune Selimian receiving Mkhitar Kosh Medal from President Serj Sarkisyan

Celebrating 20 Years In Armenia

Joyce Stein

Twenty years of Armenian Independence was jointly celebrated by the nation and the Armenian Missionary Association of America!

Joining the AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian were Joe and Marilyn Zeronian, Ken and Thelma Kevorkian, Rev. Joe and Susie Matossian and Joe and Joyce Stein. Also joining us were special guests, Dr. and Mrs. Mel Cheatham. Dr. Cheatham is a retired Board member of the Billy Graham Crusade and presently serves with the global humanitarian organization, Samaritan's Purse. We were delighted that Baroness Caroline Cox joined us for this momentous occasion.

There were a number of highlights of our trip including:

- House of Hope Visit
- Worship Service
- Musa Ler Production
- Visit with Baroness Cox
- Visit to the Social Service Center in Gumri
- Trip to Avedisian School

We visiting "pilgrims" were well impressed with the AMAA's ministry at its beautiful Baghramian Center where activities from church services, child sponsorship program, The Evangelical Academy, and frequent creative theatre and musical presentations take place.

There was standing room only at the Baghramian Center's theatre for an outstanding Musa Ler production which depicted the drama of Soghomon Tehlirian's passionate pursuit of Talaat Pasha's assassination and his final acquittal. We were also privileged to attend the Russian Stanislavsky Theatre and the AMAA's Anniversary presentation. Over 500 guests enjoyed an energized program depicting AMAA's 20 year ministry in Armenia.

Church services on two Sundays inspired us with choral hymns and Christ centered sermons. Rev. Dr. René Léonian, AMAA Armenia Representative for the past 17 years, was given a passionate farewell from Yerevan's three Evangelical churches on our final Sunday.



**At Camp Sheen Shoghig in Hankavan .
L to R: Harout Nercessian, Joyce & Joe Stein,
Ken Kevorkian and Levon Filian**

A walk through the Avedisian School inspired us as we are well aware of the benefit that these poor youngsters enjoy in the School awarded a gold medal for excellence. Avedisian School Principal Melania Geghamian, a devout member of the Evangelical community, gets highest praise for the School's extraordinary standards. Hope for grades 10-12 will become a reality when construction begins on the additional property.

We were provided visitations to three special churches. In Armavir, Pastor Rev. Garoush Antonyan welcomed us with a mini concert by the Shoghik Choir. He expressed deep appreciation for AMAA's unbroken support. He hopes in the future that his little church will not always be receiving, but rather providing for its own. A surprise alfresco lunch was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Artashat boasts another church, this one shepherded by Pastor Hrant Badalyan. Formerly a movie theatre, this vibrant church is in the process of being renovated, thanks to the support of AMAA friends. One of Armenia's oldest apostolic churches is located here.



Groundbreaking Ceremony of House of Hope



**Meeting with Armenia Minister of Diaspora
Hranoush Hakobyan**

A touching Groundbreaking and Dedication service took place at the House of Hope site in the Shenkavit district of Yerevan. Over 60 people, including many children, shared their joy with pastors throughout Armenia. Rev. Samuel Kirakosyan led the Dedication Service, assisted by Rev. Hamlet Gureghyan and Brother Stepan Vartanyan, Pastor of the House of Hope Church. Rev. Joe Matossian, Minister to the AEUNA, and AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian also spoke of the AMAA's participation and thanked Samaritan's Purse for partnering with us in our mission field. A sudden deluge of rain did not dampen the spirit of all who attended and observed the planting of a copy of the Nicene Creed in a time capsule. Dr. Cheatham, Board member of Samaritan's Purse which had made a significant contribution to House of Hope, brought greetings and a message of encouragement. A program for the deaf is just one part of its ministry.

The building where House of Hope Church meets now is a house that belongs to Hope for Armenia of France. It is too small for this growing congregation and does not have enough facilities to meet the ministry needs of the church. Thus, a new church building is planned and we viewed the drawings and plans for the new Church.

Another highlight of the trip was our visit to our Center in Gumri where social services, worship services, humanitarian and cultural programs are organized and supervised by the AMAA leaders of Gumri. The AMAA is working diligently to develop a new center in the heart of the city.

A trip to Armenia must include a visit to Camp Hankavan. Obviously, additional restoration is crucial. Even so, the Camp continues to be a joyous venue for thousands of underserved youngsters. We enjoyed a simple meal with a Christian Canadian team Horizon working with local handicapped children. We thank the AMAA Orphan and Child Care Committees for their magnanimous support of this amazing ministry.

We were pleased to meet with the Minister to the Diaspora Hranoush Hakobyan and President Serj Sarkisyan in his Presidential Office. Baroness Cox joined us with both Presidents of Armenia and Karabagh. This was her 75th trip to Armenia. We were delighted that she could spend some special time with her AMAA friends before her mission trip to the Sudan. She is in love with Armenians!

Many festivities marked the country's 20th Anniversary — a military parade in Yerevan, celebrations on Republic Square lasting until the 12th hour, and 150,000 cheering celebrants!

This was a never to be forgotten journey to the Homeland! □



Visit with Baroness Caroline Cox



At Camp Sheen Shoghig in Hankavan, Armenia



Evangelical Center (currently being remodeled) in Ashdarak, Armenia



In front of the Evangelical Center in Ashdarak, Armenia

92nd Annual Meeting of the AMAA

The 92nd Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was held at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA, on Saturday, October 15. Over 80 members including Board members, pastors, representatives of churches and mission committees, representatives of Armenian Evangelical Unions throughout the world and delegates from affiliate groups were present to review the service ministries of the AMAA.

The reports presented by the Churches and the AMAA Committees indicated how effective the service ministries of the AMAA are. The Annual Meeting also reflected on the AMAA's finances and reviewed the reports of the Treasurer and the independent auditors. During 2010-2011 fiscal year, over seven million dollars was distributed to support 140 projects in 24 countries around the world.

During the Annual Meeting, four new members were elected to the AMAA's Nominating Committee and the names of the nine new Board members, elected by the membership of the Association, were announced.

On October 16, all members and guests joined the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA for a special Worship Service of praise for the AMAA. The English sermon was delivered by Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA. His topic was "Go and do likewise." The Armenian sermon was delivered by Rev. Razmig Minassian. His topic was "Feed the Hungry."

During the Worship Service, a special prayer was offered in memory of those members and friends who made the transition from this life to Life Eternal during the past year. Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian officiated at the installation of the newly elected AMAA Board members. □

AMAA Elects New Board Members, President and Officers

In accordance with the appropriate policies and procedures, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) elected its new Board members, President and officers.

On October 15, at the Annual Meeting of the Association, four new members were elected to the Nominating Committee. The new members are: Rafi Balabanian, D.D.S., Nazareth Darakjian, M.D., Peter Kougasian, Esq., and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian.

At the same meeting, the names of the following nine individuals were announced, who were elected by the general membership to serve on the Board of Directors as the Class of 2014: Bryan Bedrosian, Anita Buchakjian, Nazareth Darakjian, M.D., Robert Hekemian, Sr., Louis Kurkjian, Kenneth Kevorkian, Lori

Muncherian, Harold Nahigian and Arsine Bedrosian Phillips, Esq. The new Board members were installed on Sunday, October 16, during the AMAA Annual Meeting Worship Service, which was held at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles.

On December 3, the Board of Directors elected its officers and approved the Executive Committee as follows: Joseph Zeronian, Ed.D., President; Nazareth Darakjian, M.D. and Peter Kougasian, Esq., Vice Presidents; Thomas Momjian Esq., and Arsine Phillips, Esq., Secretaries; Nurhan Helvacian, Ph.D., Treasurer; Anita Buchakjian, Assistant Treasurer; Berjouhy Gulesserian, Advisor; Levon Filian, Executive Director; Albert Momjian, Esq., Solicitor; and Joyce Stein, Representative of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation. □

Meet Joseph Zeronian - New AMAA President

Joseph P. Zeronian, Ed.D is the newly elected President of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

A native Californian having grown up in Venice, California, Joe currently resides in Pasadena. His maternal grandfather and father were immigrants, arriving in the United States in 1888 and 1904 respectively, from villages near Kharpert. Joe grew up in the Gethsemane Armenian Congregational Church which became the UACC and he was elected the first Moderator in 1963. He and his wife, Marilyn (Tangairian), are the parents of two children and grandparents of four grandchildren, all of whom live in Pasadena.

Joe is a graduate of the University of Southern California (USC) and has spent his entire career involved in the California public schools. Following graduation in 1958, he served as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy, and in 1961 began teaching in Pasadena. He eventually served as the Chief Business Officer for the Pasadena and La Canada schools in the 1970s and as acting Superintendent in Pasadena in 1984-5 prior to a career change which led him into municipal investment banking. As a banker, Joe assisted over 115 California school districts with the bond financing of facilities and equipment.

In 2000, he returned to education and was appointed CFO for the Los Angeles Unified School District where he served for four years. Believing that there is a great need for qualified school business officials, following retirement, Joe joined the Rossier School of Education at USC to direct the School Management Certificate Program and has worked to expand this important program throughout California. □



AMAA Holds Annual Banquet

in California

Phyllis Hamo

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Annual Banquet was held on October 15 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City, CA. With a theme of "Nine Decades of Christian Faith and Service," the Annual Banquet brought together many guests and dignitaries including Catholicos Aram I of the Great House of Cilicia, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian Prelate of the Western Prelacy, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian Primate of the Western Diocese, Father Krikor Chahinian Pastor of Glendale's St. Gregory Armenian Catholic Church, a large assemblage of Armenian Evangelical Pastors from Armenia, Europe, the Middle East, the United States and Canada as well as members of the AMAA and its Board of Directors. The Keynote Speaker for the Banquet was the Honorable Marvin R. Baxter, Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court.

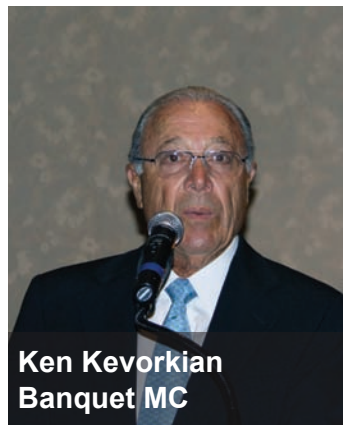
After a welcome by the AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian, the Masters of Ceremony team of Ken Kevorkian and Joe Stein alternated introductions. In his keynote address, Judge Baxter, who was appointed to the Court by Governor George Deukmejian in 1991, chronicled the story of a California Supreme Court Justice during the Gold Rush era.

AMAA President Dr. H. Steven Aharonian recognized Rev. Dr. René Léonian for his dedicated 17 year mission of service in Armenia and also thanked Mrs. Sylvie Léonian, a pharmacist, who worked at the AMAA's Yerevan Medical Clinic for many years. Rev. Léonian will soon open a new field for the AMAA in Eurasia.

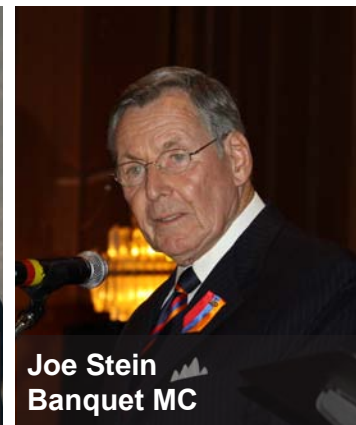
The musical program was coordinated by Rev. Nerses Balabanian, who accompanied tenor Raffi Kerbabian and soprano Salpi Keleshian. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian delivered an uplifting spiritual message to the audience.

Rev. Mgrditch Melkonian, Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, warmly introduced Catholicos Aram I who was in California from Antelias, Lebanon for a 20-day official Pontifical visit.

The Pontiff brought the crowd to its feet and captivated the audience with an eloquent, ecumenical message of hope. He referred to the gathering of the Apostolic, Evangelical, and



Ken Kevorkian
Banquet MC



Joe Stein
Banquet MC



Dr. H. Steven Aharonian honoring **Rev. Dr. René Léonian** for his 17 years of service

Catholic churches, declaring that "We all belong to the same tree, but we have different branches, sharing the same values with different articulation." "Jesus Christ reminds us," he affirmed, "that when two people are gathered in my name, I am there in the midst of them. Our mission is our people and serving our people. Our churches should work together. This is our challenge."

Joyce Stein, on behalf of the AMAA and in honor of His Holiness Aram I, announced that the AMAA has established a special fund for Haigazian University to offer a course for two years through its Center for Continuing Education to seminary students of the Great House of Cilicia at Antelias.

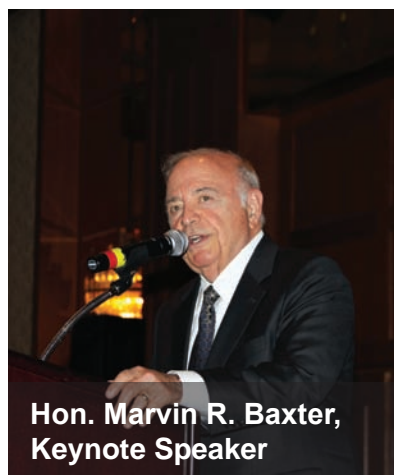
Mrs. Stein commended Harry and Cheryl Nadjarian who made a \$10,000 contribution to support the continuing education of priests at Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon. For many years His Holiness Aram I has taught at Haigazian.

The AMAA presented a video describing the current worldwide missions of the AMAA in 24 countries. Presently there are 145 Armenian Evangelical churches and fellowships worldwide, Haigazian University, 25 Armenian Evangelical schools, the Children's Milk Fund, summer and day camps for 5,800 children in Armenia and Karabagh, medical and dental clinics, sponsorships of needy children, and tuition aid through the AMAA Child Education Program.

Rev. Joe Matossian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, asked all of the clergy present to join him as he offered the closing Benediction. □



Levon Filian, AMAA
Executive Director



Hon. Marvin R. Baxter,
Keynote Speaker

The Speech of His Holiness Aram I

Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia
At the 92nd AMAA Annual Meeting Banquet

I deeply believe that Jesus Christ is with us. And, indeed this is a fellowship of faith, a fellowship of love, and a fellowship of hope.

This is the church. I always remind our people that the church is not a place where we go. The church is not an institution, functioning in the life of our community. The church may have, and in fact should have, an institutional manifestation, but the church is essentially the community. We are the community. Often we forget the community, the fellowship character of the church, and we reduce the church to liturgy, to administrative functions and to the kind of realities that profane our desires. That is not the church. The church is strictly fellowship. Jesus Christ brings us together and constantly reminds us that we are on the way toward the full delightation of the people of God. This is the church and we are very happy that with this set of understanding, the church, our churches - the Armenian Apostolic, Evangelical and Catholic churches, engage each other in a real fellowship.

We may have different ecclesiastical understandings, we may have different theological attitudes, we may have different doctrinal positions, but essentially we belong to one church of Christ. We may be Armenian Apostolic, Armenian Evangelical or Armenian Catholic, but these churches together belong to the one Armenian Christian fellowship. We have common roots. We all belong to the same tree. We are different branches of the same tree. We cannot forget the history, because of different emphasis; the three churches have emerged in the life of the Armenian Christianity. I always remember one of the well-known Evangelical theologians, Leon Arpi, and his well-known book, *The Armenian Christianity*. I strongly suggest you read that book. We all belong to one Armenian Christian tradition sharing the same values, the same spirituality, with different emphasis, different forms and articulations. Essentially the Armenian Christianity is one, one whole. And, I'm very happy that today the close cooperation exists between the Armenian Evangelical Church and the Armenian Orthodox Church in general and the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia in particular.

This is not a theoretical sentence. This is not wishful thinking. This is not a biased approach. This is in fact official. Our collaboration is the same by a mutual love, understanding and trust. Our collaboration embraces the propriety of the life of our churches, but with particular emphasis on educational and diaconal seals of our churches' life. The Azoonieh Hospital, The Old People's House (CAHL), The Birds Nest (orphanage), these are institutions, where in Lebanon, our two churches share responsibilities where they are together engaged in the service of our people. And, we should not forget the history; that the Armenian Evangelical Church played an even bigger role in the educational sphere of our life. Many of its institutions in Syria, in Lebanon, and elsewhere have been directed and initiated and promoted by our Armenian Evangelical brothers and sisters.

Because of historical circumstances, and this is indeed a confession, the Armenian Orthodox Church laid an emphasis on the national dimension of our church's life and witness. There was a vacuum. And, the Armenian Evangelical Church came to fulfill that vacuum by putting a special stress on the missionary outreach and the evangelistic dimensions of our community life.

And, today we believe that our churches need to strengthen their collaboration. There are a number of areas in our life where this collaboration is not only possible, but as I said, we all belong to one community, to one nation, to one people. We are all called and challenged to serve our people in different ways with different methodologies with different priorities. Our mission land is our people, and by mission, I understand serving our people. That is the vocation of the church. The church is not a center of authority. The church is a soul for service.

And, the authority of the church lies in its service to the people. This is the outreach of the church. The church is not a self contained, self existent, self sufficient reality. The church becomes church in the most authentic sense of the word, and it goes beyond itself. I like to say when the church goes beyond its walls, the church becomes a church in the life of the people by identifying with the poor, with the marginalized, with the oppressed.

We together, our churches together, Orthodox, Evangelical and Catholic, should work together. This is a great challenge before us. We must serve together in Armenia. We must work together in all communities wherever we are, because we are called to serve our people by strengthening our unity, by being efficient in serving our people.

Therefore, once again, I would like to express my joy for being with you and sharing your joy at this event. May God bless our churches. May God bless our people in Armenia, in Karabagh, in the United States, in Canada, and wherever they are. We come from people. We belong to the people and we are called to serve our people in the power of the Holy Spirit. May God bless you all. ☐



AEWC Executive Committee Holds Meeting in Los Angeles

Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

The Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its annual meeting on Friday, October 14, at the United Armenian Congregational Church in Los Angeles, California.

The following representatives of the member organizations of AEWC were in attendance: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, President; Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian, Executive Director; Rev. Dr. René Léonian, Vice President; Rev. Megrđitch Karagoezian, Secretary; Joyce Philibosian Stein; Levon Filian; Dr. H. Steven Aharonian; Rev. Joseph Matossian; and Rev. Haroutune Selimian.

The representatives of the member organizations, as well as the President, Executive Director and the Treasurer of AEWC presented their written and oral reports. The following were the highlights of the reports:

1. The Pastors' Seminar in Armenia. A Pastors' Seminar for the ministers and religious workers in Armenia was held from September 11-15 in Hankavan, Armenia. Fifty-seven pastors were in attendance from Armenia, Karabagh, Georgia, Russia and Iran, along with the six Seminar leaders from the United States, Canada, France, Lebanon and Armenia.

2. Armenia-Diaspora Conference. An AEWC delegation, under the leadership of Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, attended the Armenia-Diaspora conference on September 19 and 20 in Yerevan. There were 516 participants from 46 countries.

3. Twentieth Anniversary celebration of the Independence of Armenia. Armenian Evangelical leaders attended the twentieth Anniversary celebration of the Independence of Armenia, as well as paid official visits to the presidents of Armenia and Karabagh, on September 16 and the 20th respectively.

4. Twentieth Anniversary of AMAA ministries in Armenia. An AEWC delegation, under the leadership of its President, participated in the 20th Anniversary celebration of the AMAA ministries in Armenia, on September 18, 2011.

5. Dialogue between AEWC and Etchmiadzin. It was resolved to continue the dialogue between the Armenian Evangelical World Council and the Holy See of Etchmiadzin. So far, two meetings have been held.

6. Genocide Centennial Committee. A Pan-Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee has been organized, under the leadership of President Serj Sarkisyan of Armenia, in preparation of the 100th anniversary of the Turkish Genocide of the Armenians. The AEWC is one of the participants. Each Union of the AEWC is requested to have its input in the preparation of this milestone observance. The details of the planning committee will be communicated in the near future.

7. Appreciation and new appointment. At the conclusion of Rev. Dr. René Léonian's tenure as representative of AEWC and AMAA in



Back row L to R: Levon Filian; Rev. Dr. René Léonian; Rev. Joel Mikaelian; Rev. Joseph Matossian; Rev. Megrđitch Karagoezian; Rev. Haroutune Selimian; Dr. H. Steven Aharonian. Front row: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian; Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian; Joyce Philibosian Stein. Absent from photo: Albert Momjian, Esq.

Armenia, the Executive Committee recorded its profound appreciation and gratitude to Rev. Dr. René Léonian, and his wife Sylvie, for their manifold and dedicated service of seventeen years (1994-2011) to our motherland Armenia in general, and to the Evangelical Church of Armenia in particular. It was further resolved that as of January 1, 2012, Rev. Léonian will be AEWC's and AMAA's representative to the Armenian Evangelical Union of Eurasia.

8. Archival material. The compilation of all the documents and correspondence of AEWC for the past 32 years (1978-2010) has been completed and are bound professionally in book form. They consist of twelve volumes and are presently housed in the AEWC archives at the AMAA Headquarters in New Jersey.

9. 165th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The year 2011 is the 165th anniversary of the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The five constituent Armenian Evangelical Unions of AEWC have been notified to mark this important milestone. Observances and celebrations in various forms have been, and are being conducted everywhere.

10. All Armenian Evangelical Pastors' Retreat. Plans are being made for an all Armenian Evangelical Pastors' Retreat to be held at La Source, France, from April 8-12, 2013. In preparation for the event, a planning committee has been selected.

11. Thanking the host church. The Executive Committee of AEWC expressed its thanks to the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles for graciously hosting its annual meeting.

12. Venue and date of the next AEWC meeting. It was resolved to hold the next AEWC biennial meeting on Friday, October 19, 2012 at the Headquarters of the AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, New Jersey. □

Future Armenian Leadership Fund (FALF) and Haigazian Alumni Activities

Ani Darakjian, M.D.*

The Haigazian University Board of Trustees held its bi-annual meeting in Los Angeles on November 11 and 12. During the meeting, the increasing costs of higher education in Lebanon, in part related to government mandated increases in salaries, were discussed. Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, President of Haigazian, informed the Board that a high percentage of the Armenian families in Lebanon have great difficulty in coming up with the necessary funds to send their children to Haigazian.

The original vision of the founders of the University had been to prepare teachers, pastors and lay leaders for the Armenian community of Lebanon and the Diaspora. In order to remain true to this mission, Board members felt that there was an urgent need to find ways to financially support gifted Armenian students, who would otherwise be unable to attend University, to attend Haigazian.

A subcommittee of the Board was formed to work on addressing this issue. The subcommittee members are Robert Kurkjian, Levon Filian and Serge Buchakjian. The subcommittee proposed, and the Board approved, the formation of the "Future Armenian Leadership Fund," which will provide financial assistance to top Armenian students desiring to receive a University education at Haigazian. The Fund, established at the AMAA, will have several levels of assistance. For example, \$25,000.00 will cover a full three year scholarship for a student. This can be a named scholarship, bearing the name of the donor, or it can be named in memory of a loved one. Smaller donations may also be made to assist a student without providing a full scholarship, or several donations may be combined to provide a full scholarship. The funds can also be designated by the donor to provide scholarships to qualified Armenian students majoring in Armenian or in Christian Education. Assisting such students to receive a University education at Haigazian will help develop a new generation of quality future Armenian leaders. At least two major donations have been received thus far for this newly established fund. Mr. Filian, spearheading the plan, started the campaign by pledging \$10,000. This was followed by another donation from Mr. Kurkjian for \$25,000 in memory of his parents, Louis and Mary Kurkjian.

In conjunction with the Haigazian Board meetings in Los Angeles, an Alumni get together was planned, and took place at the home of Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian on the afternoon of November 13. This was not meant to be a fund raiser but was planned as a fun gathering to bring Alumni together and to raise interest in and awareness of The University. An ad hoc committee of alumni did all the planning and preparation for this event which had an attendance of around 125 people. The committee members were: Raffi Kendirjian, Katia Kermoyan-Khodanian, Khatchig Havatian, Houri Tavitian, Hagop and Maro Kazazian and Sandra Bessos.



L to R: Dr. Hrag Marganian, Robert Kurkjian, Esq., Herair Mouradian, Serge Buchakjian, Seta Karagoezian, J.B.M. Kassarian, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, Hratch Sarkis, Gary Phillips, Esq., Levon Filian, Dr. H. Steven Aharonian, Joyce Stein, Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Ani Boujikian, John Sagherian, Dr. Ani Sarafian and Dr. Ani Darakjian

The attendees included many Alumni as well as former President, Rev. Dr. John Khanjian, current President, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, Mr. Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA, (an HU alumnus), the President of the AMAA Board, Dr. Steven Aharonian, current and former members of the Board of Trustees and friends of Haigazian University. It was also gratifying to note the presence of Anahid Terjimanian, widow of Dr. Hagop Terjimanian, who passed away recently, and had been a Haigazian University Faculty member for many years as well as an enthusiastic supporter.

President Haidostian gave an informative talk on the present state of Haigazian, and the tremendous growth and forward strides that have taken place over the past ten years. He mentioned that the enrollment at Haigazian University is at 915 students, the highest enrollment to date. Raffi Kendirjian spoke as well, indicating his debt of gratitude to Haigazian for providing him with a high quality education which allowed him to embark on a successful career in banking. He encouraged the Alumni to join together, in organizing and attending future activities in Los Angeles, both to maintain social ties with former classmates as well as to support the University.

Even though this was not meant to be a fundraising event, around \$3,000 was raised. It is hoped that Haigazian Alumni will continue to organize and to form cohesive groups in their respective communities to support the University and the Armenian students in Lebanon for quality University education. If you are a Haigazian alumnus or if you know of one, please send all contact information to hualumniusa@gmail.com. □

** Dr. Ani Darakjian is the President of the Haigazian University Board of Trustees.*

16th Annual "Children Helping Children" Luncheon A Success in Boston

The Boston area Orphan and Child Care Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) held its 16th Annual Children Helping Children Luncheon on October 27 at the Wellesley Country Club. The Luncheon featured a raffle and both live and silent auction items including tickets and memorabilia from all of the major Boston sports teams, diamond jewelry, framed art, oriental rugs, dinners and much more. AMAA Board of Directors members Edward Avedisian and Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq. served as auctioneers for the event and kept the bidding competitive and lively. All proceeds from the event are donated to the AMAA's Orphan and Child Care Fund to benefit needy children in Armenia. □



Carolyn Eurdolian and Stephanie Goldstein with artwork from the luncheon's live auction

NJ Orphan and Child Care Committee Raises Funds for Emergency Medical Program



Get Into the Spirit of Christmas was the theme of the NJ Orphan and Child Care Committee's Holiday Brunch on December 8 at Neiman Marcus in Paramus, NJ. The event was chaired by MJ Hekemian and June Collignon, Co-Chairs of the Committee.

Levon Filian, Armenian Missionary Association of America Executive Director, opened the program with welcoming remarks and a warm thank you to Neiman Marcus for hosting the AMAA and to the Committee members who worked hard to organize the event. June Collignon thanked the guests for coming and for supporting this worthwhile event. She cited several cases of children who have been helped by our efforts over the past year.

Over 60 guests enjoyed brunch and a special presentation by the Neiman Marcus staff on gift giving, home decorating and fashion accessory ideas. A Silent Auction was held which included items such as FAO Schwartz child's bicycle, a spa package, a round of golf, Burberry scarf, perfume, Armenian cognac, gourmet truffle basket, baby products, and a popcorn popper.

Over \$5,750 was raised to help children in Armenia with special medical needs. The AMAA wishes to thank Serge and Anita Buchakjian for underwriting this event. □

Nvard, A Beneficiary of the Emergency Medical Fund

Nvard Arakelian lives with her sick mother in a dilapidated hostel room. Her mother, who has undergone six operations, is unemployed and has a second degree handicap. Their income is the pension for the handicapped and the poverty allowance they receive hardly meets their maintenance needs.

Nvard had a serious health problem and there was a danger that she would end up barren if medical treatment was not given immediately. In July and September 2010, she received medication, observations and a check-up. Thanks to the generous support and her urgent medical treatment, the dangerous outcome was prevented.

In early 2011, Nvard suffered a stroke. She was taken from Vanadzor to Yerevan in a special medically equipped ambulance. There the doctors prescribed a special computer observation of her head to find out what caused the stroke. The medical help she received paid for all necessary procedures for Nvard's doctors to start her medical treatment.

Thanks to the Emergency Medical Fund and the qualified medical professionals who treated her, today Nvard feels good and is overcoming her health problems. □



Armenian Evangelical Church

Dedicates New Church in Cranston, RI

Gail Bilezerian

With our newly refurbished sanctuary filled to capacity and standing room only, parishioners, along with family and friends, joined to honor God and to celebrate the dedication of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Cranston, RI on Sunday, October 9. The journey which led to this event began 120 years ago when our founding fathers first gathered together to worship and subsequently establish our church. Then, many years and two church buildings later, and exactly one year ago, our Board learned that the Church at 180 Oaklawn Avenue in Cranston, was for sale. In the ensuing twelve months, we purchased the property, undertook renovations, moved from our Providence location and settled into our new house of worship.

On Dedication Day, regular morning services were held and we were pleased to have Rev. Joe Matossian, Minister to the AEUNA, Rev. Hagop Manjelian, former Minister, Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church, Providence, RI, and AMAA Executive Director Levon Filian participate. Refreshments and an Open House followed.

The afternoon Service of Dedication, was filled with enthusiasm and joy. Our congregation was represented by Gail Bilezerian, Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees, who extended words of welcome, and Deacon Carlos Taraktzian, who spoke



The new home of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Cranston, RI

on behalf of the Board of Deacons. Arpie Shiragian presented a medley of familiar hymns on the recorder.

In addition to Rev. Matossian, Mr. Filian and Rev. Manjelian, the following clergy and dignitaries also participated in the afternoon Service: Rev. Dr. Charles Barnes, Rhode Island Conference Minister, United Church of Christ; Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian, Pastor, Armenian Memorial Church, Watertown, MA; Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Pastor, First Armenian Church, Belmont, MA; and Rev. Dr. Ara Jizmejian, Interim Minister, Armenian Evangelical Church, Cranston, RI.

Rev. Matossian led the congregation in the Litany of Dedication and Prayer and our Service concluded with the "Hyer Mer." Everyone in attendance then gathered in our Social Hall for a collation and fellowship while renewing ties with former parishioners, friends and visitors.

A tremendous amount of work led up to Dedication Day and the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Evangelical Church expressed appreciation to all who made the day possible. Sincere gratitude is extended to the AEUNA, UCC and the AMAA for support and assistance. Sincere thanks is also expressed to those who donated our new pews and to everyone who contributed to our Capital Building Fund.

The Board is especially grateful to members of our congregation for giving of their time and effort and of themselves in whatever way each one was able. Our parishioners are truly thankful for the support and guidance received from our Pastor at all times and especially during the transition period.

God has showered our congregation with an abundance of blessings over our 120 years. We praise Him and we are extremely grateful to Him for all our blessings and for the Armenian Evangelical Church in Cranston, RI. □



L to R: Levon & Liliana Filian Rev. Joe Matossian, Carlos Taraktzian, Gloria Messerlian, Nancy Taraktzian and Robert Messerlian

The President of Nagorno Karabagh Republic Visits the AMAA

On November 17, The President of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, His Excellency Bako Sahakyan, paid a visit to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Headquarters in Paramus, NJ and met with Levon Filian, Executive Director, and a number of AMAA Board members including Vahram Aynilian, Anita Buchakjian, Nurhan Helvacian, Ph.D., Lucy Janjigian, Albert Momjian, Esq., Thomas Momjian, Esq., Khorem Nalbandian, Alan Philibosian, Esq. and Michael Voskian, DDS.

Some of the topics discussed during the meeting were related to the issues in the implementation of various projects in Karabagh. Special attention was paid to the development of the Republic's pre-school network. The President appreciated the AMAA's involvement and input in establishing some pre-school programs in the Republic.

Archbishop Parkev Martirosian, Primate of the Artsakh Diocese, Tatoul Markarian, Ambassador of Armenia to the United States, Davit Babayan, Spokesperson of Nagorno Karabagh President, and Robert Avetisyan, Permanent Representative of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic to the United States, were also present at this meeting.



Some of the AMAA Board members also participated in the dinner reception, held at the Waterside Restaurant in NJ, which honored the President. The President thanked all those in attendance and challenged them to continue their support of the upcoming Thanksgiving telethon. □

AEUNA Visits Catholicos Aram I



On October 18, a delegation headed by the Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of America (AEUNA) Rev. Joseph Matossian, paid a welcoming visit to His Holiness Catholicos Aram I, Catholicos of Great House of Cilicia, who was on his 4th Pontifical Visit to the Western Prelacy. The Catholicos received the AEUNA delegation at the Western Prelacy headquarters in Los Angeles.

Joining Rev. Matossian were representatives from the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and Armenian Evangelical Union of America (AEUNA) Board members, ministers and community leaders. H.E. Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate, and Executive Councilmember Vahan Bezdikian, joined His Holiness.

The meeting was an opportunity for an exchange of information and a discussion on general concerns of the Armenian people. His Holiness spoke highly of the Armenian Evangelical Church and its undeniable contribution to the spiritual and educational life of the Armenian people. He also spoke of the main themes of his Pontifical Visit to the Western Prelacy and the endeavors and mission of the Catholicosate. The meetings concluded with an exchange of mementos.

Catholicos Aram I also visited Central Valley's largest city, Fresno, where representatives from the Armenian Evangelical churches paid a visit to His Holiness and presented him with a plaque of appreciation. □

Armenia President Serj Sarkisyan Honored at Dinner

On the occasion of his visit to the east coast to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Armenia Independence, a special dinner was held to honor Republic of Armenia President Serj Sarkisyan. The dinner was held in New York City on September 23. Attending the dinner from the AMAA were the Executive Director Levon Filian, Board members and AMAA friends including Vahram Aynilian, Edward Avedisian, Charles Bilezikian, Nurhan Helvacian, Ph.D., MJ Hekemian, Robert Hekemian, Jr., Vahe Nalbandian, Albert Momjian, Esq., and Thomas Momjian, Esq. □

Wine and Cheese Garden Party

Supports AMAA's Work with Armenian Children in Lebanon & Syria

On October 22, the Friends of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Peninsula Chapter held a Wine and Cheese Garden Party to raise funds for the AMAA's ongoing work supporting the educational needs of Armenian children in Lebanon and Syria. Co-chaired by Kris Gulesserian of Los Altos and Nina Tashjian of Saratoga, this inaugural event was held on a beautiful California evening at the home of Ike and Kris Gulesserian. The Indian summer evening enabled guests to gather outdoors as they enjoyed an array of domestic and imported gourmet cheeses, specialty hors d'oeuvres, and a selection of California wines. Complementing the wonderful food and wine was the beautiful décor, reminiscent of a California vineyard.

"We are thrilled to have the support of so many members of the Bay Area Armenian community for the important work of the AMAA," said Peninsula Chapter Co-Chairs Kris Gulesserian and Nina Tashjian. "Our Chapter has successfully supported the educational needs of a number of Armenian youth in Beirut and Syria for many years. Education is so critical for these young Armenians – and we are pleased and humbled to be able to help make a difference in their lives."

Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA, attended the event and showed his support for the work of the Peninsula Chapter. In his remarks at the party, Mr. Filian, a beneficiary of the AMAA himself, spoke about the worldwide mission of the AMAA and the dual purpose that the AMAA served in his life – both educational and spiritual. No stranger to the Bay Area, Mr. Filian spent many years as an active member of the community in Northern California, serving as a deacon, elder, and moderator at Calvary Armenian Church in San Francisco.



Committee Members of AMAA Peninsula Chapter

Mr. Filian's son, Ari Jon, attended the fundraiser as well. Ari Jon recently spent some time interning with the AMAA in Armenia. During the event, Ari Jon shared his experiences from Armenia with the guests, speaking eloquently about the resilience of the Armenian people and the inspiration he drew from his time in Armenia.

The Wine and Cheese Garden Party was successful in educating new audiences about the work of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter and in attracting new supporters to the cause.

The Friends of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter also held its annual Christmas Luncheon in December in Hillsborough, CA. Members of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter's Committee include Alina Balabanian, Nora Balabanian, Anahid Gulesserian, Kris Gulesserian, Margo Gulesserian, Arpi Haleblan, Lara Khoury, Aline Richards, and Nina Tashjian. □

West Coast's AEYF Holds Retreat

In San Francisco

On October 28-30, the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF) of the West Coast held a retreat at the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco. Seventy young people, ages 15-22, arrived on Friday from Los Angeles, Fresno and the San Francisco Bay area to participate in the retreat.

The program included worship, teaching, fellowship and trips to the famous Fisherman's Wharf and the trampoline park, House of Air. The main topic was "The Jealous God" and the main speaker was Rev. Aren Balabanian, who taught that God loves us so much that He is jealous for us. He wants our devoted love and does not want anything or anyone else to take His place.

On Sunday, the youth worshipped with the CACC congregation. Rev. Balabanian spoke and Levon Filian, Executive Director of the AMAA, spoke on "Who is the greatest?" Mr. Filian challenged the congregation and the youth to be faithful servants of God, serving the needy and the weak. □



20 Տարիներու Ծառայութիւն Հայաստանի Մէջ

ԼԵՈՆ ՖԻԼԵԱՆ

Հայաստանի Անկախութեան 20-ամեակին առիթով, մենք կը տօնենք նաեւ մեր 20 տարիներու ծառայութիւնը Մայր Հայրենիքի եւ Ղարաբաղի մէջ:

Առ այդ, մեր թերթի այս թիւը կը ձօնենք Աստուծոյ եւ բոլոր անոնց, որոնք աղօթեցին, աշխատեցան եւ նեցուկ կանգնեցան Հայաստանի եւ Ղարաբաղի մեր ծառայութեան դաշտին՝ վերջին 20 տարիներու ընթացքին: Մենք կը հրաւիրենք նաեւ ձեզ՝ միանալու մեզի աւելի մեծ ծառայութեան, եկող 20 տարիներու ընթացքին:

Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը եւ մենք՝ բոլորս միասնաբար, մեր լաւագոյնը ըրինք հետեւելով Քրիստոսի մեզի տուած հրահանգին.- «Դացէ՛ք ամբողջ աշխարհը, ու քարոզեցէ՛ք Աւետարանը բոլոր արարածներուն»: (Մարկ. 6. 15): Մենք ընդառաջեցինք մեզի տրուած մարտահրաւերին.- «Ամէն ինչ որ կ'ընէք, թէ՛ խօսքով եւ թէ՛ գործով, ըրէ՛ք Տէր Յիսուսի անունով, շնորհակալ ըլլալով Աստուծոյ ու Հօրմէն՝ Անոր միջոցով» (Կող. 3. 17): Եւ մենք ամէն բանի մէջ շնորհակալ եղանք, որովհետեւ այս էր Աստուծոյ կամքը մեզի հանդէպ՝ Քրիստոս Յիսուսով (Ա. Թեա. 5. 18):

7 Դեկտեմբեր 1988-ին, Հայաստանի մէջ տեղի ունեցող աղէտալի երկրաշարժէն անմիջապէս ետք, Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը, գլխաւորութեամբ Ընկերակցութեան Գործադիր Տնօրէն՝ Վեր. Դոկտ. Մովսէս Պ. Ժանպազեանի, առաջին կազմակերպութիւններէն մէկը հանդիսացաւ երթալու Հայրենիք եւ իր օգնութեան ձեռքը երկարելով հոգալու որք եւ չքաւոր մանուկներու ֆիզիքական (առողջապահական եւ սնունդ) եւ հոգեւոր պէտքերուն:

1991-ին, երբ Հայաստան հռչակեց իր անկախութիւնը Սովետական Միութեան կարգերէն, Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը առաջին կազմակերպութիւններէն մէկն էր պաշտօնապէս գրանցուելու Հայաստանի մէջ եւ իր կեդրոնը բանալու Երեւանի մէջ, դիւրացնելու համար Ընկերակցութեան ծառայութիւնը Հայրենիքի մէջ: Պրն. Լեւոն

Պարտազեան 1991-1994 տարիներուն ծառայեց որպէս առաջին ներկայացուցիչը Ընկերակցութեան, որուն յաջորդեց Վեր. Դոկտ. Ռընէ Լեւոնեան, որ ծառայեց 1994-2011 տարիներուն, իրեն օգնական ունենալով Պրն. Յարութ Ներսէսեանը:

Փառք կու տանք Աստուծոյ Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Վարչական Խորհուրդին առաջնորդութեան համար, որոնք ժրջանօրէն աշխատեցան՝ նեցուկ կանգնելով Ընկերակցութեան Հայաստանի մէջ կատարած ծառայութեան՝ գլխաւորութեամբ Վարչական Խորհուրդի նախագահներուն.- Հ. Ֆիլիփ Յովնանեան (1988-1990), Եղուարդ Ժանճիկեան (1990-1993), Ալպերթ Մոմճեան (1993-1997), Էնտրիու Թորիկեան (1997-2004), Հրայր Ս. Ահարոնեան (2004-2011):

1990-էն առաջ միայն երկու պաշտօնական Աւետարանական (Մկրտական) եկեղեցիներ կային Հայաստանի մէջ - Մէկը Երեւան եւ միւսը Կիւմրի (նախկին Լենինական): Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան ծառայութեան դաշտը ընդլայնեցաւ իր Գործադիր Տնօրններու առաջնորդութեամբ.- Վեր. Դոկտ. Մովսէս Պ. Ժանպազեան (1987-2000), Վեր. Ժիրայր Սողոմեան (2001-2003), Վեր. Դոկտ. Փիթըր Տողրամճի (2004), Էնտրիու Թորիկեան (2004-2009), Լեւոն Ֆիլեան (2010-ներկայ):

Այսօր շուրջ 50 Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներ եւ եղբայրակցութիւններ կան Հայաստանի եւ Ղարաբաղի մէջ, որոնք կը սատարեն մեր Հայրենի ժողովուրդին հոգեւոր եւ բարոյական վերելքին:

Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը միշտ առաջնահերթ նկատած է կրթական գործը: 1999-ին՝ Էտվըրտ եւ Բամելա Աւետիսեաններու նիւթական աջակցութեամբ, Ընկերակցութիւնը հիմը դրաւ Աւետիսեան Վարժարանին՝ Երեւանի մէջ: Ընկերակցութիւնը նաեւ սեփականատէրն է եւ կը հովանաւորէ երկու մանկապարտէզներ Հայաստանի Վանաձոր եւ Թալին քաղաքներուն մէջ, եւ հինգ մանկապարտէզներ Ղարաբաղի մէջ - Պաղտիկեան Մանկապարտէզը Ստեփանակերտի մէջ, Պիլեզիքեան Մանկապարտէզը Շուշիի մէջ, Սարեան

Մանկապարտեզը Հատրուլի մէջ, ծանալագեան Մանկապարտեզը Մարտակերտի մէջ, ինչպէս նաեւ Ասկերանի Մանկապարտեզը:

1998-ին Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը հիմնեց Աստուածաբանական ձեմարան մը պատրաստելու Հայաստանի Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիներուն համար հովիւներ եւ Քրիստոնէական Դաստիարակութեան գործիչներ: Մինչեւ 2005 տարին Վեր. Դոկտ. Ռընէ Լեւոնեան ծառայեց որպէս Նախագահը ձեմարանին: Իրեն յաջորդեց Վեր. Դոկտ. Ժան Խանճեան, որ ծառայեց 2007-2010 տարիներուն: Սեպտեմբեր 2010-էն ի վեր այդ պաշտօնը կը վարէ Դոկտ. Ժան Ահմարանեան: Ժեմարանէն վկայեալներու թիւը այս տարիներու ընթացքին կը հասնի 128 աշակերտներու:

Մանուկներու Հովանաւորութիւնը այլ մէկ առաջնահերթ ծրագիր մըն է Ընկերակցութեան համար: Անցող 20 տարիներու ընթացքին Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը, տարեկան հովանաւորած է շուրջ 2800 մանուկներ Հայաստանի եւ Ղարաբաղի մէջ, անոնց հայթայթելով թէ նիւթական եւ թէ Ֆիզիքական միջոցներ, ինչպէս նաեւ հոգեւոր եւ բարոյական դաստիարակութիւն: Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը երախտապարտ է Հոլանտայի Dorcas Aid International Ընկերակցութեան, ինչպէս նաեւ Ֆրանսայի Association Service d'Entraide et de Liason եւ Յոյս Հայաստանի Համար կազմակերպութիւններուն՝ իրենց գործակցութեան համար:

Ամառնային ծամբարներն ու Սուրբ Գրոց վարժարանները Ընկերակցութեան գլխաւոր ծառայութիւններէն մէկը եղած է միշտ: Սկզբնական տարիներուն ամառնային ծամբարներ կազմակերպուած են վարձուած վայրերու մէջ: Այսօր Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը սեփականատէրն է երկու ծամբարներուն - Շին Շողիկ ծամբարը Հայաստանի Հանգստան շրջանին մէջ եւ Պետրոսեան ծամբարը՝ Ղարաբաղի Շուշի շրջանին մէջ: Տարեկան շուրջ 5000 մանուկներ, պատանիներ եւ երիտասարդներ կը մասնակցին ծամբարի հերթական ծրագիրներուն:

Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը կը մատուցանէ նաեւ բժշկական ծառայութիւն չքաւորներու՝ երեք բժշկական կեդրոններու միջոցով - Այնիլեան Բժշկական Կեդրոնը՝ Երեւանի մէջ, Վանաձորի Ատամնաբուժական Կեդրոնը՝ Ֆրանսայի Յոյս Հայաստանի Համար կազմակերպութեան աջակցութեամբ եւ Սպիտակի Բժշկական եւ Ատամնաբուժական Կեդրոնը՝ Ֆրանսահայ բժիշկներու եւ Ֆրանսայի Յոյս Հայաստանի Համար կազմակերպութեան աջակցութեամբ: Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը հովանաւորած է նաեւ Բժշկական արշաւներ Տօթ. Ալպերթ Ֆիլիպսի գլխաւորութեամբ, որոնք ամէն տարի 500-է

աւելի անձերու կը մատուցանեն ձրի բժշկական խնամք, ինչպէս նաեւ Plasticos Mission բժշկական արշաւը՝ Տօթ. Ռապրթ Կերթմէնեան Պըրնզի գլխաւորութեամբ, որոնք ձրի վիրաբուժութիւններ կը կատարեն՝ սրբագրելով մանուկներու ծնունդով անբնական շուրթերը եւ այրուածքներ:

Ֆրանսայի Յոյս Հայաստանի Համար կազմակերպութեան աջակցութեամբ, ձեռնուայ եղանակին, Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը տաք ծաշ կը սպասարկէ չքաւոր տարեցներու՝ Հայաստանի Ստեփանաւան քաղաքին մէջ: Ծնունդով Գերմանուհի Քոյր Հաննա Քրիստէն, Ընկերակցութեան հաւատարիմ կամաւոր ծառաներէն մէկը Հայաստանի մէջ, տաք տարիէ ի վեր կը ծառայէ մեր հայրենի ժողովուրդին: Ան իր Հայաստանի ծառայութեան շրջանը սկսաւ իր հանգստեան կոչուելէն ետք: Քոյր Հաննան նախապէս երկար տարիներ ծառայած էր Այնճարի Հայ Աւետարանական Վարժարանին մէջ, որպէս գիշերօթիկ դպրոցի սաներու ընդհանուր խնամատար: Հայաստանի մէջ իր կատարած շատ մը բարեսիրական ծառայութիւններու կողքին, ան նաեւ հիմնեց Թումանեան քաղաքի տաք ծաշի կեդրոնը, որմէ կ'օգտուին աւելի քան 80 չքաւոր ընտանիքներ:

Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութիւնը յատուկ ծառայութիւն կը մատուցանէ նաեւ «Երէցներու Հովանաւորութիւն» ծրագրին միջոցով: Հոլանտայի Dorcas Aid International կազմակերպութեան հետ գործակցաբար այս ծրագիրը օգնութեան ձեռք կ'երկարէ 143-է աւելի չքաւոր տարեց մայրերու եւ հայրերու, ամէն ամիս անոնց հայթայթելով նիւթական եւ այլ օգնութեան միջոցներ:

Հայաստանի Մանուկներու Կաթի ծրագիրը յատուկ փոշի կաթ կը հայթայթէ նորածին մանուկներուն, որոնք չեն կրնար մարսել սովորական կաթ կամ չեն կրնար ընդունիլ իրենց մօր կաթը: Ամէն տարի շուրջ 3000 նորածին մանուկներ կ'օգտուին այս ծրագրէն:

Վերջին 20 տարիներու ընթացքին, շատ մը կազմակերպութիւններ գործակցած են մեզի հետ՝ հայթայթելու մարդասիրական օգնութիւն հայրենի մեր ժողովուրդին: Փառք կու տանք Աստուծոյ United Armenia Fund-ին համար, որոնք կանոնաւոր կերպով փոխադրած են մարդասիրական օգնութիւն դէպի Հայաստան, Heifer կազմակերպութեան, ինչպէս նաեւ United Nations Development Program-ին՝ Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան հետ իրենց ցուցաբերած գործակցութեան համար՝ ի նպաստ մեր հայրենի ժողովուրդին կարիքներուն:

Մեր այս համառօտ տեղեկատուութեան աւարտին, կոչ կ'ընենք ձեզի Սուրբ Գրային հետեւեալ համարով - «Հունձքը իրապէս շատ է, բայց գործաւորները՝ քիչ: Ուրեմն աղերսեցէք հունձքին Տէրոջ, որ գործաւորներ ուղարկէ իր հունձքին»: (Մատթ. 9. 37): □

Անվերջ Վերադարձ

Լյուսյա Առաքելյան

Այս խորագրով, Սեպտեմբեր 16-ին եւ 17-ին Երեւանի Հայ Աւետարանչական Կեդրոնի Դահլիճին մէջ տեղի ունեցաւ հետաքրքիր ներկայացում՝ նուիրուած **Մուսա Լեւանի հերոսամարտի** 96-ամեակին: Միջոցառումը լի էր հետաքրքիր եւ բովանդակալից ծրագրով – Թատերական ներկայացում, հիւրասիրութիւն, երգ ու պար եւ Մուսալեռցիի կենցաղը յիշեցնող ձեւաւորում: Դահլիճի նախամուտքը զարդարուած էր հին հայկական կարպետներով եւ թանգարանային կենցաղային առարկաներով: Դահլիճի իւրաքանչիւր անկյունի կողքին դրուած էր մէկական գրքոյկ «Անվերջ Վերադարձ» խորագրով, որ կը ներկայացնէր Մուսալեռցիներու 40-օրուայ կեանքի եւ մահուան հերոսական պայքարը: Իսկ գրոյկներուն վրայ դրուած էր մէկական կարմիր խնձոր: Դահլիճը լեցուն էր հիւրերով, որոնց մեծամասնութիւնը Մուսալեռցիներ էին՝ թէ Սփիւռքէն եւ թէ Հայրենիքէն:

Միջոցառումը սկսաւ Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան Գործադիր Տնօրէն՝ Լեւոն Ֆիլեանի բացման խօսքով: Ան նախ ներկայացուց Մուսա Լեւանի շրջակայ եօթը գիւղերու հերոսական պայքարը եւ ապա պարզաբանեց գրքոյկներու վրայ դրուած խնձորներուն իմաստը, որուն միտքը վերցուած էր հայկական «Նահապետ» ֆիլմի այն դրուագէն, ուր բերքառատ խնձորենին կը խորհրդանշէր արեւմտահայութիւնը: Անոր ճիւղերը 1915-ին Թուրքական փոթորիկէն կոտորուեցան եւ խնձորները գլորուեցան արագահոս գետը, որ տարաւ զանոնք տարբեր ուղղութիւններով ձեւաւորելով աշխարհի չորս կողմ սփռուած Հայկական Սփիւռքը: Բացման խօսքին յաջորդեց Հայ Աւետարանչական Ընկերակցութեան «Հայասա» թատերախումբի ներկայացուցած Պերճ Զեյթունցեանի «Ոտքի Դատարանն Է Գալիս» թատերգութեան հիման վրայ գրուած «Անվերջ Վերադարձ» ներկայացումը՝ բեմադրութեամբ *Ռեճիսոր* Նունէ Աբրահամեանի: Ան կը ներկայացնէր Սողոմոն Թեփլիբեանի՝ 1921-ի դատաւարութիւնը Պերլինի մէջ, ուր Եւրոպայի յառաջադէմ հասարակութեան ճշունով դատարանը արդարացուց Թեփլիբեանին, որ ամբողջ Հայութեան հաշուեհարդարն էր արիւնարբու Թալիաթ Փաշայի նկատմամբ: Թատերգութեան զուգահեռ կը ցուցադրուէր Նաեւ դրուագներ՝ 1915-ի դաժան կոտորածի փաստագրական ֆիլմէն: Հակառակ անոր որ դերակատարներէն քանի մը հատը 7-8 տարեկան երեխաներ էին, դերասանական խաղը անթերի էր, չափազանց կենդանի եւ յուզիչ, եւ

ժամանակ առ ժամանակ ներկայացումը կ'ընդհատուէր հանդիսականներու բուռն արձագանքներէն: Ներկայացումը աւարտուեցաւ Հայաստանի անկախ Պետութեան 20-ամեայ տարեդարձին նուիրուած տեսաֆիլմով: Ներկայացումէն ետք կազմակերպուած էր Մուսալեռցիներու բնորոշ հիւրասիրութիւն՝ որու ընթացքին հրամցուեցան միջուկով քոֆթա, հայկական գաթա, պտուղներ եւայլն: Հիւրասիրութեան ընթացքին հնչեցին Նաեւ Մուսալեռցիներու նուիրական դիօլն ու զուռնան, որոնց հնչիւններու տակ հիւրերը մեծ ուրախութեամբ շուրջպար բռնեցին:

Շուրջ երեք ժամ տեւող միջոցառումը հիւրերուն կրկին անգամ յիշեցուց, թէ ի՞նչ բանի ընդունակ է Հայ ժողովուրդը երբ հանդէս կու գայ քաջութեամբ, միասնական համախմբուածութեամբ, նուիրումով եւ վեհանձնութեամբ: Մասնակցելով այս միջոցառումին, ակամա յիշեցի ֆրիտյոֆ Նանսէնի խօսքերը.՝ «Ես պարզապէս կը զարմանամ, թէ մարդ, որ ծանօթ է այս սքանչելի ժողովուրդի ճակատագրին, ինչպէս կրնայ հոգեկան խոր ցնցում չապրիլ»: □



Հայասա Թատերախումբը



Մուսա Լեռցիներու դիօլն ու զուռնան



Ճոխ Հայկական Հիւրասիրութիւն

Lucy Shooshanian

Lucy Shooshanian, a long time supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, passed away on April 6 after a long battle with liver disease. She was 84.



Born in Boston, MA, Lucy was the daughter of Edith and Hagop Ashjian. A graduate of Roslindale High School, Lucy was a very active member of the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA. She also volunteered for a number of organizations including the Armenian Women's Welfare Association (Armenian Nursing Home in Brookline, MA), the Weston, MA Clothing Exchange and the N. E. Home for Little Wanderers.

For the last 12 years, she and her husband spent six months in Boynton Beach, FL. She was loved by many in both Boynton Beach and her summer home in Waltham, MA. Lucy enjoyed golf, bowling and playing cards with her many friends.

She leaves her husband of 58 years, Edward; a daughter Holly J. Ritchie of Weston, MA; a son Edward A. Shooshanian of Natick, MA; and five grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Barbara Kavogian of Brewster, MA plus numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown, MA. □

Haig Arslanian

Haig Arslanian, International Advisory Board member of the AMAA, passed away in October 2011. Born in Aleppo, his roots go back to the town of Aintep, Cilicia. He was 84.



After graduating from the Mkhitarian School, Haig began working with his brother Melankton at a textile factory and also became one of its shareholders. In 1944, he moved to Lebanon, in 1951 went to South Africa and a year later founded a diamond and jewelry production company. In 1962, the Arslanian brothers founded the Arslanian Brothers Corporation in Antwerp, Belgium which has offices in Africa, Latin America, Canada and Australia. In 1992, he founded the Lori factory in Armenia. Thanks to Haig and his son Shah, the diamond industry was revived in

Armenia and is today known as an international center in the diamond industry.

In 1994, Haig gained the title of Honorary Consul for the Kingdom of Belgium and from 1996 to 2006 he served as President of the Union of Armenian Goldsmiths.

Haig was a major donor in Armenia and the Diaspora. Thanks to his generosity, several schools and churches were built in Armenia. He was awarded the honor of Prince of Cilicia by his Holiness Catholicos Karekin II of Cilicia and was awarded the medal of Anania Shiragatsi by former Armenian President Robert Kocharian.

Funeral services were held on October 16, 2011 at St. Marie-Madeleine Church in Belgium. A joint church service was conducted by Father Zagid Avedikian and Rev. Dr. René Léonian, spiritual fathers of the Armenian Apostolic and the Armenian Evangelical churches. Following the service, the burial took place in Armenia, honoring the wishes of his children. □

Margaret Kassouny

Margaret Kassouny, a Professor of Nutrition and Food Science, passed away on October 11, 2011 at Vantage House in Columbia, MD. Margaret was born on February 26, 1925, the youngest daughter of Rev. Yeghia and Mrs. Yevnige Kassouny.



Margaret came to the United States in 1955 and earned both a Bachelor and Master of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from Ohio State University. In 1962, she joined the faculty of the Department for Food and Nutrition at Texas Tech. During this time, she pursued a doctoral degree at Cornell University, and received her Ph.D. in Nutrition in 1970.

She joined the faculty of Florida State University in 1973 as a Professor of Nutrition and Food Science and was able to quickly translate scientific concepts into suitable learning goals and tasks for her students. She loved to teach and was awarded Emeritus status a few years before she retired in 1987.

Outside her professional activities, Margaret loved to cook, often preparing her favorite Lebanese and Armenian foods for friends and relatives. She also maintained very close ties with her family, traveling often to see and vacation with them. She didn't slow down in the last period of her life, continuing to offer her services to family, friends, church and community.

She spent her final years at Vantage House, a retirement community in Maryland. There she made an effort to do what she could to help the community, making friends with many of the residents and helping wherever she could. Until the end of her life, she was a devout Christian, and exemplified Christ's teaching with how she lived her life.

A memorial service was held for Margaret at Vantage House on November 22. Present were her two nieces, Marie Daghlilian and Arpine Ayvazian, family and friends. Memorial gifts were made to the Armenian Missionary Association of America. □

Louise Paulson Kupelian

Louise Kupelian, concert pianist and much-loved musical pedagogue, passed away peacefully on October 18, 2011 at her home in Chevy Chase, MD. She was 89.



For decades, Louise was one of the most sought-after piano teachers in the Washington, D.C. metro area where she lived since 1950. She stayed active to the end — including playing the piano an hour a day — until early September when a series of strokes hospitalized her.

Born in Philadelphia in 1922, she was the youngest of four children of Paul and Anna Paulson. She excelled at music at an early age and later graduated from the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music. She was a gourmet cook and enjoyed traveling. After her faith and her family, Louise's greatest love was music.

Louise married Vahey S. Kupelian, a pioneering aeronautical engineer and later Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Strategic and Nuclear Forces. He retired just months before passing away at age 76 in 1988. Ironically, both of their families were impacted by the Armenian Genocide years before the two ever met in the United States. During their 45 years of marriage, they remained active in the Armenian community.

Louise is survived by her two sons Theodore (Peg) and David (Jean) and a daughter Diane Toureille (Pierre); six grandchildren Karen, Julie, Marc, Sarah, Joshua and Joanna, and one great-grandchild on the way.

Memorial services were held November 12 at Westmoreland Church, Bethesda, MD. The family suggests that memorial gifts be made to the AMAA Armenian Children's Milk Fund, Westmoreland Church in Bethesda, or the Friday Morning Music Club. □

Anahis Toroyan Selimian

Anahis Toroyan Selimian, mother of Rev. Haroutune Selimian, Head of the Armenian Evangelical Community of Syria, passed away on October 29 in Emerson, NJ. She was born in 1934 in Aleppo, Syria.



Her parents were Dikran Toroyan and Altoun Ohanian, who settled in Syria right after the Great Massacres in Historic Armenia. In 1959, Anahis married George Toroyan and they settled in the Daoudieh Region of Aleppo, Syria. The family was blessed with three children: Marcelina (Mihran Yacoubian); Haroutune (Shoghagat Apartian); and Dikran (Silva Chobanian); and seven grandchildren.

Anahis was dedicated to her family. As a Christian mother, along with her husband, George, she was on the forefront for the betterment of the physical and material needs of her family. Her role in the upbringing of her children was crucial and immeasurable and the Christian education and instillation of the Armenian Christian heritage are evident in their lives. Being an Armenian Christian mother, she was a true example of godliness, modesty, virtuosity and patience. Her blessed memory will prevail in the personal and collective lives of her children for many years to come. □

Rev. Dr. Mihran Kupeyan

Rev. Dr. Mihran G. Kupeyan, Pastor of the Sand Lake Baptist Church in Averill Park, NY and the Union Gospel Church in East Poestenkill, NY, died November 1, 2011 at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He was 58.



Born in Damascus, Syria, Rev. Kupeyan was the son of the late Garabed and Alice Kupeyan. Rev. Kupeyan was raised and educated in Beirut, Lebanon, and was a graduate of the Illawarra College of the Bible in Katoomba, New South Wales, Australia. He returned to Lebanon with hopes of serving the Lord and continuing his education, but with the civil unrest in Lebanon, he chose to immigrate to the United States in 1976 on an invitation from a church. It was in Topeka, KS, that he met his wife, Annie, and was married in Minneapolis.

Rev. Kupeyan graduated from the California Graduate School of Theology

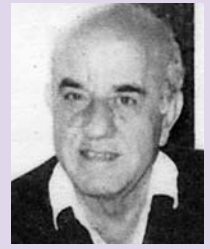
with a Ph.D. in theology. Rev. Kupeyan pastored churches in Australia, Lebanon and the United States and had been serving as the pastor of the Sand Lake Baptist Church and Union Gospel Church since 2005. He was a founding member of the Capital District Genocide Committee, a member of the Presidential Prayer Team, the Sand Lake Clergy Association and many other prayer fellowships around the Capital District. He served on the boards and committees of national and regional organizations and was the former chairman of the Los Angeles Ministerium of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) and a former board member. Rev. Kupeyan was an avid sports fan and loved to play all sports especially soccer and cycling. His favorite hobbies were reading and cars. He was a student of history and was fluent in English, Armenian, Arabic, Turkish and French.

He is survived by his wife, Annie Slice Kupeyan, his children Joel, Samuel and Aline, all of Sand Lake; his sisters Maggie Kupeian Marachlian and Betty Kupeian, both of Canada, Ruth Kupeian of Armenia and the late Valentine Kupeian Abdalian.

A memorial service was held on November 5 at the Sand Lake Baptist Church in Averill Park. □

Bernard Andonian

Bernard Andonian of Los Angeles, CA, passed away peacefully on November 16 at the age of 77. Born in Beirut, Lebanon, he was the youngest son of Movses Andonian and Adele Topalian Andonian.



Bernard received his education at the Armenian Evangelical Central High School of Eshrefieh, Beirut, Lebanon and was a member of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Eshrefieh, where he served as board member and treasurer for a few years before moving to the United States. He enjoyed painting, fine wood carving and jewelry making.

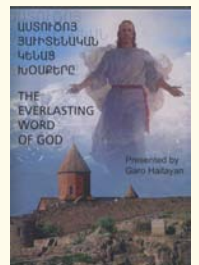
Bernard is survived by his sister Arzatz Azadouhi Andonian and brothers Sebouh and Albert. He was a believer in the Lord and it was comforting to hear him say at his bedside of his trust in the Lord.

Funeral services were held on November 26 and were officiated by Rev. Ron Tovmasian, Senior Minister of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA and Rev. Apraham Chaparian, Minister of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Hollywood, CA. □

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